Sheffield

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Comment text:

Prior to responding, I should make it clear that I am not a member of any political party. But having read the submissions from the various councillor groups, I agree with the Green group's proposal to increase the number of councillors from 84 to 93.

This would have three advantages:
1 - increase the number of councillors available to represent the electorate across the city, commensurate with the projected increase in population.
2 - increase the number of councillors (from all parties) who are available to participate in the committee system and provide high quality representation (instead of spreading resources too thinly).
3 - provide an opportunity for ward boundaries to be redrawn and even out the represented population. For example, Nether Edge & Sharrow, Ecclesall, and Dore & Totley are both "oversized" wards which could be redistributed by the addition of a new ward.

Having been part of the group that campaigned for the referendum that resulted in the introduction of the committee system, I think it is imperative that this system remains. It has resulted in more accountability, and better quality decision-making within the council. I think by increasing the number of councillors, the system can continue to work well.

I also agree with the comments that councillors should be paid a better allowance. The current financial situation means that people who would be excellent councillors are deterred from standing for election because they could not afford to take the necessary pay cut from their current work. This is an important consideration if we want our elected councillors to represent a true cross-section of our community. The current situation

results in an excess of councillors who are either retired or in very well paid roles elsewhere, and a shortage of younger people and people with families.

Attached Documents:

None attached